

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 1 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A laminating method for forming a laminated layer in the form of a transparent film on a surface of an image on a printed object, comprising the steps of:

transferring a laminate having a laminated layer and a heat resistive base material layer to the surface of the printed object for laminating to form a laminated printed object;

a rear edge peeling step of peeling off the heat resistive base material layer from a rear edge portion of the laminated printed object by exerting an active force on the rear edge of the laminated printed object in the carrying direction; and

subsequently to the rear edge peeling step; a front edge peeling step of peeling off the heat resistive base material layer from a front edge of the laminated printed object on which the laminated layer is transferred, sequentially from a front edge portion to the rear edge portion in the carrying direction of the printed object,

wherien when the rear edge peeling step is ended the heat resistive base material layer is not peeled from the laminated printed object at a portion between the front edge and the rear edge of the laminated printed object.

2-4. (Cancelled).

5. (Previously Presented) A laminating method according to Claim 1, wherein a portion of the laminate transferred to the printed object is deformed to peel off the printed object by a difference in deformation caused by a different firmness of the laminate and the printed object.

6. (Previously Presented) A laminating method according to Claim 1, wherein the laminate is provided as a continuous sheet, and the printed object is supplied as a cut sheet to a specific portion of the continuous sheet.

7-27. (Cancelled).